

City of Spokane Office of Police Ombudsman Commission (OPOC)

Regular Meeting Minutes February 2, 2016

Chairperson Debra Conklin called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. All Commissioners were present (VanderPol, Smith, Rose and Richter). She welcomed all Commissioners and the public.

Commissioner Jenny Rose moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ladd Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Draft minutes for the 1/5/16 and 1/29/16 meetings were reviewed. Smith noticed one minor typo: the minutes for 1/5/16 should read "VanderPol moved to approve the minutes from 12/8/15".

Conklin asked if everyone had a chance to review the 6/2/15 minutes. Since there is some disagreement, her recommendation is to lay out the votes that were taken. She asked Commissioners to look over the notes and discuss next time.

Commissioner Scott Richter made a motion to approve the January 5, 2016 minutes with the amendment. Rose seconded. Motion passed.

Commissioner VanderPol moved to approve the 1/29/16 minutes. Commissioner Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Rose will attend training on 2/13/16, and Richter will attend training on 2/20/16. VanderPol will do a ride-along this Friday.

Conklin asked that everyone, including the public, respects the time and possible cost that the police department invests in the training, and to keep Kathy informed if not attending. She gave a reminder about the NACOLE conference.

The Commission discussed meeting attendance. Commissioner Conklin said there is a request from the League of Women Voters for 2/9/16. She and Rose will attend.

VanderPol will attend the NAACP meeting on 2/15/16 NAACP meeting. Smith and Richter will attend Police Advisory Committee next Wednesday morning.

Rose will attend the Northwest Neighborhood meeting on February 18.

Conklin attended a forum sponsored by SPARC, PJALS, and NAACP. She also attended the Police Leadership Advisory Committee meeting, and the West Central Coalition meeting, which is focused on ways to be successful economically and financially.

Conklin invited anyone to come forward for the Public Forum:

Allen McDowell expressed current concerns about the police department.

Smith informed McDowell about a public meeting with Police Advisory Committee Meeting on March 17, 5:30 pm at the West Central Community Center.

Breean Beggs is having a meeting by phone with Human Resources tomorrow about the visa process for Mr. Humayun. We should know something by the end of February.

Dave Plemmons asked Beggs if the visa is turned down, is the backup in progress already? So if we suddenly learn that Mr. Humayun will have to wait for the following year to go through that process. Are there two separate processes and will they be going forward simultaneously? Beggs said the agreement made with Mr. Humayun is that if he could get the NAFTA visa in 75 days, then he has the job. There was no promise that that if he didn't get the visa, that the Commission would wait until next October for the other visa process. The Commission has not made that decision, whether they would wait that long for him, but that could be discussed. You can't apply for the second visa route until April. It's a lottery where about 50% are approved and they are processed if there are no red flags.

The other backup plans are the Interim, and the Selection Committee which chose the three Interim candidates, has remained as a working committee, so if we need to ask them to get 3 more candidates for the regular Ombudsman they're ready to go. They worked together very well.

The commissioners discussed whether to give Mr. Humayun an extension on the 75 days that were originally given for him obtain his visa. Conklin moved to extend offer to Mr. Humayun until March 1st. Rose seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Beggs noted that Mr. Humayun has done everything he needed to do on time, and any delays have nothing to do with him at all. Conklin said he's done everything in less time than we asked him to.

The commissioners discussed the Interim candidates. Richter moved to offer Mr. Logue the Interim position. Rose seconded.

Conklin asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak to the candidates. McDowell said he supported Mr. Logue.

Conklin called for a vote, and the motion was unanimous to offer the position to Mr. Logue.

Beggs will be working on Mr. Logue's offer memo with Conklin. Under ordinance, the maximum you can appoint an Interim is 4 months. An additional 4 months is possible if needed.

Conklin said she hopes we can have a conversation with City Council about working towards having a second person on staff on a permanent basis who can do everything the Ombudsperson can do, including the ability to respond critical incidents. The only way we'll have real coverage when we need it to have someone on the payroll when the call comes in.

The offer memo was discussed. Conklin asked that it include the possibility to renew the contract if we don't have Mr. Humayun in place. Rose moved to offer Mr. Logue a 4 month position, contingent on 2 week's notice, after Mr. Humayun arrives. VanderPol seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Beggs

will notify HR and get the letter out as soon as possible to Mr. Logue. Conklin thanked Hession and the other 4 members of Committee for doing excellent work.

Conklin said the Spokane Police Department will be giving presentations on the new Use of Force policy. One possibility for us is to schedule them to give us a presentation at our March meeting. That will help us be prepared to give them competent feedback. All agreed it would be worthwhile, and that Conklin will follow up with Kathy Armstrong. Beggs encouraged everyone to be fully engaged, active and dynamic, and say this is what our community wants.

Regarding the question about anonymous complaints and inquiries, Beggs said if is a complaint, the person must come forward. The complaint goes into the Office of Police Accountability process and people have a right to know who is complaining about them for due process. There is room for OPO to do investigations and inquiries, but there is no potential for discipline. If there is potential for discipline, the name has to be on the complaint. Beggs said OPO should create procedures for independent investigations, and include anonymous complaints as one component. Conklin made a motion to request that OPO expeditiously create procedures for independent investigations which would include the possibility for someone to trigger a non-disciplinary investigation anonymously. Richter seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Beggs said the Interim could spend some time talking with Conklin and Marty, and can come to meeting after a few weeks, interact with Commission and get ideas for the work plan.

Dave Plemmons made a respectful request to flip items on the agenda so the public can hear the annual report before the discussion on the rules. Conklin explained the annual report is not done yet, and it's on the agenda to remind that this will happen within the next 30 days.

A discussion took place on the draft OPO Policies and Procedures.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Submitted by Martha Huseman and approved by Commission on March 1, 2016